

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 00362 171846Z

73

ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 L-01

SP-02 IO-03 PM-03 DODE-00 MC-01 RSC-01 /042 W

----- 072856

R 171822Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1804

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 0362

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: JUNTA MEMBER VIEWS THE PERUVIAN THREAT

1. SUMMARY: GEN LEIGH PAINTS DARK PICTURE OF ALLEGED PERUVIAN PLANS TO AGGRESSION AGAINST CHILE. END SUMMMARY.
 2. AMBASSADORS MAILLIARD AND POPPER CALLED ON GENERAL GUSTAVO LEIGH, JUNTA MEMBER AND AIR FORCE CINC, JAN 17.
 3. AFTER BRIEF DISCUSSION OAS MATTERS, LEIGH TURNED CONVERSATION TO DIFFICULTIES JUNTA WAS FACING IN OBTAINING WEAPONS NEEDED TO COUNTERACT PERUVIAN THREAT OF AGGRESSION. LEIGH SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE USG EXECUTIVE BRANCH WAS DOING WHAT IT COULD, BUT THAT CHILE HAD SERIOUS IMAGE PROBLEM WITH CONGRESS. HE HOPED LARGE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY IN NEW CONGRESS, WHICH WOULD IN A SENSE SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOVERNING, WOULD ACT WITH GREATER RESTRAINT THAN LAST SESSION.
 4. LEIGH DESCRIBED PERUVIAN INTENTIONS AS DANGEROUS AND DISTURBING. HE THOUGHT THERE WAS NO DOUBT PERUVIANS WERE PREPARING FOR AGGRESSION. HE PUT THE NUMBER OF SOVIET TANKS IN PERU AT 550, NOTED PERUVIANS HAD SUPERSONIC MIRAGE JETS AND MIGHT RECEIVE MIG 23'S, AND STATED THERE WERE MANY SOVIET AND SOVIET BLOC AS WELL AS CUBAN ADVISERS IN ALL PARTS OF
- CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 00362 171846Z

COUNTRY. SOME OF THE SOVIET TECHNICIANS, HE SAID, WERE EVEN

IN THE JUNGLES OF EASTERN PERU. HE WONDERED WHETHER THEY MIGHT NOT BE THERE TO EMLACE MISSILES WHICH COULD BE USED AGAINST OTHER SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES OR EVEN THE UNITED STATES.

5. WE NOTED THAT IT HARDLY SEEMED LIKELY THAT THE RUSSIANS, WHO COULD TARGET ON THE UNITED STATES FROM HOME TERRITORY, WOULD SEEK TO DO SO FROM THE PERUVIAN JUNGLE. LEIGH ACCEPTED POINT, BUT REITERATED HIS SUSPICION AS TO REASONS FOR SOVIET PRESENCE THROUGHOUT PERU. HE RECOGNIZED THAT CURRENT STATE OF READINESS OF PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES WOULD NOT PERMIT IMMEDIATE MILITARY ACTION AGAINST CHILE, BUT SAID CHILEANS CONSIDERED THE SITUATION OMINOUS. YOUNG CHILEAN OFFICERS TENDED TO SEEK SOME OUTLET FOR THEIR FRUSTRATIONS, BUT OLDER HANDS WERE COUNSELING CALM, IN HOPES CHILE'S SITUATION WOULD IMPROVE. IN ANY CASE, WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT IF PERU SOUGHT TO TAKE TERRITORY BY AN AGGRESSIVE STRIKE, FESTERING SITUATION AKIN TO THOSE IN VIETNAM AND MIDDLE EAST WOULD BE CREATED.

6. AMBASSADORS INDICATED UNDERSTANDING OF DIFFICULTIES OF CHILEAN GOVT AND NOTED USG WAS STUDYING QUESTION OF EXTENT TO WHICH IT COULD CONTINUE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO CHILE THROUGH ACTION CONSISTENT WITH ARMS BAN PROVISION OF NEW FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT.

7. COMMENT: GEN LEIGH WAS OBVIOUSLY PAINTING PICTURE IN DARKEST AND DOUBTLESS EXAGGERATED TERMS, IN EFFORT TO IMPRESS. NEVERTHELESS, HIS REMARKS ARE ILLUSTRATIVE OF DEEP CONCERN FELT BY CHILEANS AT THIS JUNCTURE.
POPPER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY BUILDUP, FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANTIA00362
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750019-0821
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750142/aaaabknc.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JUNTA MEMBER VIEWS THE PERUVIAN THREAT
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, CI, PE, UR, (LEIGH, GUSTAVO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006